

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

February 20, 2015

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



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CBC

News story #1 Flu Season Hitting Hard

Have you gotten the flu shot this year? Have you been sick with the flu this year? This first story is about how many people have been sick with the flu this season in Alberta.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
influenza	A disease that is like a very bad cold and can be given to people easily
out	Available and ready to be seen
hospitalize	To be put in the hospital
remain (v)	To continue to be in the same state or condition
stable (n)	Steady, not likely to move or change
weekly	Every week

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Alberta Health Services – a branch of the government that is in charge of Alberta healthcare

1. The results from the exams are _____ and people can check their grades.
2. I call my mom _____, so we can catch up and visit.
3. Have you ever been sick with the _____ virus?
4. She went to the hospital because her heart was beating very slowly and then very quickly, but thankfully she is _____ now.
5. You should _____ positive because you will feel happier that way.
6. If you get too sick, you might need to be _____.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Matching

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Alberta Health services releases _____		a) are from the Calgary zone.
2. The influenza numbers _____		b) had to go to the hospital.
3. Twenty of the people who died _____		c) weekly numbers of how many people have been affected by the flu.
4. Many people have _____		d) the hospital this week.
5. The number of people who have been hospitalized _____		e) show that 78 people have died from the flu this season.
6. 13, 000 people have been sent to _____		f) has remained stable.

Discussion: How has modern, western medicine affected our overall health in the last hundred years? What kinds of remedies do you use to make yourself feel better if you are sick with a cold or flu?

News story #2 Measles Shots Being Urged

Did you get the measles shot when you were a child? Do you know anyone who has ever had the measles? This second story is about how the measles has become a problem for people to worry about again.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with the correct definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	urge	a) protection against a disease people get from a needle that has a form of the disease in it
	up to date	b) something that is coming soon
	immunization/vaccine	c) a situation that exists about a particular person
	upcoming	d) giving careful attention to something
	confirm	e) to strongly encourage someone to do something
	case	f) an illness in which you have a fever and small red spots all over your body, and it is easily passed on to others
	measles	g) current or recent
	vigilant	h) to show that something is true

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

public health officials – people who are in charge of speaking about local health issues to the public

spring break – a break that students get from school in March

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Chronological order

Order the following events in the order they happened, not in the order you hear them. Note, some events may have happened at the same time, so give them the same number. *Answers are in the appendix.*

- ___ Public health officials in Calgary urge parents to make sure their children are up to date on their immunizations
- ___ Canadians go to Disney land.
- ___ A number of Canadians fall ill with the measles.
- ___ Canadians get exposed to the measles virus during a trip to Disneyland.
- ___ Doctor Judy Macdonald, Calgary's medical officer of health, says there have been no confirmed cases of measles in Calgary this year, but parents should be vigilant.
- ___ Parents will go away with their children for spring break.

Discussion Question: Why or how have the measles come back? Do you know why some parents refuse to vaccinate their children against the measles and other diseases? How does not vaccinating one's child affect others?

News story #3 Boosting the Economy

How can government create more jobs for people? This next story is about the latest proposed projects that Calgary is considering so that they can put more money into the economy.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words in the story with the synonyms. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
	event	a) decline drop
	stimulate	b) plan program
	downturn	c) accept agree something is good
	upgrade	d) occurrence happening
	arrest	e) inspire activate
	project	f) catch/capture put into jail
	approve	g) improve enhance

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

C-Train – Part of Calgary's public transit system

Arrest-processing unit – a division in the police that is in charge of making arrests

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The City wants a list of projects ready in the event that the government wants to give it money to create programs.
2. ____ These programs might cause the economy to fall into a deeper downturn.
3. ____ A council committee approved a list of possible projects.
4. ____ One of the projects that was disapproved was the new arrest-processing unit for the Calgary police.
5. ____ The mayor says it's good to have a list of projects that are ready to go.
6. ____ The government has not given the city money for these projects yet.

Activity

Retell the story you just heard with your partner. What are the proposed projects all about?

Language Focus: Subject- Verb Agreement

A simple sentence structure is subject-verb-object – for example; **The dogs** **ran** **home**.
Subject verb object

What is a subject? A subject in a sentence is found in the first part of a sentence/clause, before the main verb and it refers to a person, place or thing that the sentence is about.

Singular subjects “it, he, or she” take a verb with an –s on the end. E.g. **It runs** quickly. **He likes** bread.

Singular subject pronouns that get –s on their verbs	Examples
It	The apartment <u>is</u> big. (It is big) The bus <u>is</u> yellow. (It is yellow)
He	A man <u>goes</u> shopping. (He goes shopping)
She	Anna <u>loves</u> him. (She loves him)

Singular subject pronouns that don't get an –s on their verbs	Examples
I	I <u>ride</u> the bus every day.
You	You <u>cook</u> dinner for your mom, don't you?

Plural subject pronouns	Examples
We	We <u>try</u> hard.
They	They <u>buy</u> milk every week.

When thinking about subject-verb agreement, we have to make sure that we have the –s on the simple present verb if the subjects are “it, he or she”.

Activity: Look at the examples taken from the stories below.

1. Identify the **subject** in the sentences and note what pronoun (**it, he, she, they** etc.) applies to it.
2. Decide if the subject-verb agreement is correct and correct the **verb** form if needed.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. They shows 78 people have died from the flu so far this season.
2. Public health officials in Calgary is urging parents to make sure their children are up to date on their immunizations.
3. Judy Macdonald say even though there have been no confirmed cases of measles in Calgary this year; parents needs to remain vigilant.
4. The City want a list of projects ready in the event that the federal or provincial governments creates programs to help stimulate the economy through the current downturn.
5. Mayor Naheed Nenshi says it's good to have a list of projects that are ready to go even though none of them can get started without money from other levels of government.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	FEBRUARY 20 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 20, 2015.	0:00
Story 1	The weekly influenza numbers from Alberta Health Services are out. They show 78 people have died from the flu so far this season. 28 of them are in the Calgary zone. The number of people hospitalized with the flu has remained stable at about 13-hundred.	0:07
Story 2	Public health officials in Calgary are urging parents to make sure their children are up to date on their immunizations for diseases like measles, especially if they're planning to travel during the upcoming spring break. Earlier this year, a number of Canadians fell ill after being exposed to the measles virus during a trip to Disneyland. Doctor Judy Macdonald is Calgary's medical officer of health. She says even though there have been no confirmed cases of measles in Calgary this year; parents need to remain vigilant. Macdonald says parents can phone HealthLink or visit their local public health center to find out whether their children are up to date with their vaccines.	0:27
Story 3	The City wants a list of projects ready in the event that the federal or provincial governments creates programs to help stimulate the economy through the current downturn. A council committee approved a list of possible projects this morning. It includes: 224-million dollars for new C-Train cars and rail line upgrades; a 200 million dollar sports field house at Foothills Athletic Park; and a new arrest-processing unit for the Calgary police. Mayor Naheed Nenshi says it's good to have a list of projects that are ready to go even though none of them can get started without money from other levels of government. The list will be discussed by city council at an upcoming meeting.	1:13

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

1. The results from the exams are out and people can check their grades.
2. I call my mom weekly, so we can catch up and visit.
3. Have you ever been sick with the influenza virus?
4. She went to the hospital because her heart was beating very slowly and then very quickly, but thankfully she is stable now.
5. You should remain positive because you will feel happier that way.
6. If you get too sick, you might need to get hospitalized.

Listening:

1. Alberta Health services releases _____	c	a) are from the Calgary zone
2. The influenza numbers _____	e	b) had to go to the hospital
3. Twenty of the people who died _____	a	c) weekly numbers of how many people have been affected by the flu
4. Many people have _____	b	d) the hospital this week
5. The number of people who have been hospitalized _____	f	e) show that 78 people have died from the flu this season
6. 13, 000 people have been sent to _____	d	f) has remained stable

News story 2

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
e	Urge	a) protection against a disease people get from a needle that has a form of the disease in it
g	Up to date	b) something that is coming soon
a	Immunization/Vaccine	c) a situation that exists about a particular person
b	Upcoming	d) giving careful attention to something
h	Confirm	e) to strongly encourage someone to do something
c	Case	f) an illness in which you have a fever and small red spots all over your body, and it is easily passed on to others
f	Measles	g) current or recent
d	Vigilant	h) to show that something is true

Listening:

1. 4 Public health officials in Calgary urge parents to make sure their children are up to date on their immunizations
2. 1 Canadians go to Disney land.
3. 3 A number of Canadians fall ill with the measles.
4. 2 Canadians get exposed to the measles virus during a trip to Disneyland.
5. 4 Doctor Judy Macdonald is Calgary's medical officer of health says there have been no confirmed cases of measles in Calgary this year, but parents should be vigilant.
6. 5 Parents will go away with their children for spring break.

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
d	event	a) decline drop
e	stimulate	b) plan program
a	downturn	c) accept agree something is good
g	upgrades	d) occurrence happening
f	arrest	e) inspire activate
b	project	f) catch/capture put into jail
c	approve	g) improve enhance

Listening:

1. T The City wants a list of projects ready in the event that the government wants to give it money to create programs.
2. F These programs might cause the economy to fall into a deeper downturn.
3. T A council committee approved a list of possible projects.
4. F One of the projects that was disapproved is the new arrest processing unit for the Calgary police.
5. T The mayor says it's good to have a list of projects that are ready to go.
6. T The government has not given the city money for these projects yet.

Language focus: Subject-verb agreement

1. Identify the **subject** in the sentences and note what pronoun (**it, he, she, they** etc.) applies to it.

2. Decide if the subject-verb agreement is correct and correct the **verb** form if needed.

1. **They** **show** 78 people have died from the flu so far this season.
2. **Public health officials (THEY)** in Calgary **are** urging parents to make sure their children are up to date on their immunizations.
3. **Judy Macdonald (SHE)** **says** even though there have been no confirmed cases of measles in Calgary this year; **parents (THEY)** **need** to remain vigilant.
4. **The City (IT)** **wants** a list of projects ready in the event that the **federal or provincial governments (IT)** **creates** programs to help stimulate the economy through the current downturn.
5. **Mayor Naheed Nenshi (HE)** **says** it's good to have a list of projects that are ready to go even though none of them can get started without money from other levels of government.